



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

September 6, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I write to urge you to include asbestos in the first group of ten high-risk chemicals to be evaluated in 2016 under the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act (Lautenberg Act). As President Obama noted in his signing statement, asbestos is a known carcinogen responsible for the deaths of an estimated 10,000 Americans each year. I believe that expediting the evaluation of asbestos should be a top-level priority for the EPA.

The Lautenberg Act improves and streamlines the EPA's authority to regulate dangerous chemicals, and represents an important advancement in protecting public health and safety. As the EPA works to prioritize chemicals for evaluation using the best available science, I hope that you will include asbestos in the first group of ten high-risk chemicals. In my view, this action would serve to reaffirm confidence in the EPA's ability to protect Americans from dangerous chemicals.

Thank you for your ongoing work to implement the Lautenberg Act. I look forward to continuing to support the EPA's efforts to modernize federal chemical safety standards that protect American families, workers, and the environment.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Dianne Feinstein".

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate

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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your letter of September 6, 2016, to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency expressing your interest in the agency identifying asbestos as one of the first 10 chemicals for review under the recently enacted Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, which significantly amended the Toxic Substances Control Act.

Under the new law, the EPA is required to identify 10 chemicals for review within 6 months of enactment. We appreciate your comments regarding the importance of evaluating asbestos and will keep you informed of the EPA's decision regarding the 10 chemicals identified for review.

The EPA plans to publish the list as required under the new law by mid-December 2016. The agency welcomes input from all stakeholders on this and other issues related to implementation of this important new law. The EPA's first-year implementation plan is accessible here:
<https://www.epa.gov/assessing-and-managing-chemicals-under-tsca/frank-r-lautenberg-chemical-safety-21st-century-act-2>

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Mr. Sven-Erik Kaiser in the EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at kaiser.sven-erik@epa.gov or (202) 566-2753.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James I. Jones", is written over a circular stamp.

James I. Jones
Assistant Administrator